DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 162 806 RC 010 962

AUTHOR Williams, Blanch S.
TITLE Social, Economic and Health Characteristics of Older American Indians (Part 2 of 2). Statistical Reports on Older Americans, June 1978.
INSTITUTION Administration on Aging (DHEW), Washington, D.C. National Clearinghouse on Aging.
REPORT NO DHEW-OHDS-78-20289
PUB DATE Jun 78
NOTE 36p.; Tables 2, 4, and 8 may not reproduce well due to small print size; For related document, see ED 138 416

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$2.06 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Alaska Natives; *American Indians; *Census Figures; Comparative Analysis; Cultural Differences; Death; Delivery Systems; Demography; Economic Disadvantagement; *Economic Factors; Employment Patterns; *Health Conditions; Nonreservation American Indians; *Older Adults; Reservations (Indian); Rural Urban Differences; *Social Characteristics; Statistical Data

ABSTRACT

In 1970 the Indian population of all ages was 763,000; 148,600 were 45 years of age or older and 43,800 were 65 years of age or older. Two-thirds of all older American Indian women and slightly more than one-third of the older men were either single, widowed, or divorced. Half of the older Indians received incomes below $1,408; this was 24% below the median income of all older persons. Only 7% of older Indians received incomes of $5,000 or more. The proportion of elderly Indians below the poverty level in 1969 was nearly double that of the total older population. The life expectancy at birth for Indians and Native Alaskans is 65.1 years, seven years less than that for white persons. The leading causes of deaths among the older Indian population in 1974 included heart disease followed by cancer. Cultural differences, low income, and lack of a focal point for services have all contributed to the plight of elderly Indians. This report, the second of two reports on older American Indians, focuses on persons age 45-64 and 65+. It contains statistical tables and analyses on marital status, household composition, labor force characteristics, income and poverty, education, health, life expectancy, and mortality. Data were taken primarily from the 1970 census as well as from the Indian Health Service and the Social Security Administration; they show the economic, social, and health situations of the older Indian population to be worse than that for elderly persons of all races. (Author/DS)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

4. SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS OF OLDER AMERICAN INDIANS

(PART 2 OF 2)

ED162806

AUG 1978
ERIC
RECEIVED

STATISTICAL REPORTS ON OLDER AMERICANS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

JUNE 1978

RC 010962

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
OFFICE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION ON AGING • NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON AGING

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Joseph A. Califano, Jr., Secretary

OFFICE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Arbella Martinez, Assistant Secretary

ADMINISTRATION ON AGING

Robert Benedict, Commissioner

NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON AGING

Donald D. Smith, Director

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS STAFF

Irving P. Hill, Chief

DHEW Publication No. (OHDS) 78-20289

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS OF OLDER AMERICAN INDIANS

BY

*Blanch S. Williams**

This is the second of two reports on older American Indians in this series.[1/] It is based primarily on the 1970 census. Although the time span between 1970 and the present may seem long, the data contained herein are the most comprehensive to date and of some relevance. Other data included in this report are from the Indian Health Service and the Social Security Administration. The report contains statistical tables and analyses on marital status, household composition, labor force characteristics, income and poverty, education, health, life expectancy, and mortality. The first report, "American Indian Population 55 Years of Age and Older: Geographic Distribution, 1970," focused on Indians 55 years of age and older, since this group was considered the best classification of "elderly" American Indians, in view of their shorter life expectancy than the general population.[2/] Because of the lack of data on social, economic, and health characteristics of Indians in the 55+ age group, information in this report focuses on persons age 45-64 and 65+. All references to elderly or older persons in this report relate to persons 65 years of age or older.

---

*Statistical Analysis Staff (formerly Data Analysis and Dissemination Division).

[1/] Administration on Aging, Statistical Reports on Older Americans, No. 1, "American Indian Population 55 Years of Age and Older: Geographic Distribution, 1970," March 1977, prepared by Blanch S. Williams.

[2/] For the geographic distribution of the 60+ and 65+ age groups, see Administration on Aging, Facts and Figures on Older Americans, No. 9, "The Older American Indian Population: Geographic Distribution, 1970," February 1974, prepared by Blanch S. Williams.

As in the earlier report on geographic distribution, 1960 census data and changes which occurred in the Indian population during the 1960-70 decade are omitted from this report primarily because the 1960 census data contained an overcount of Indians 55-59 years of age. The magnitude of this overcount is not known. Also, isolated Indians living in rural areas were more likely to be excluded from the 1960 census count than from the 1970 count. Because of these factors, no decade-to-decade analysis using census data is included in this report.

Marital Status

In 1970, the Indian population of all ages was 763,600.[3/] Of this group, 148,600 were 45 years of age or older and 43,800 were 65 years of age or older. Women made up 53% of each age group.

Like the total older population, the distribution of older male Indians by marital status differs substantially from that of their female counterparts. In 1970, the most common marital status among elderly Indian men was to be married, with wife present. The most common marital status for older Indian women was widowhood. Nearly 60% of all elderly Indian men were married and living with their spouses; however, this was 11 percentage points less than older males of all races (see Table 1). Thus, older Indian men were more apt to be without a spouse than men in the total older population.

Among older Indian women, the proportion that was married with their husband present was about the same as that of elderly women of all races (one-third), and half of each group were widowed. The greater likelihood of older women being widowed than older men stems, in part, from longer life expectancy for women, the tendency for women to marry men older than themselves, and the tendency for more men than women to remarry after the death of a spouse. As expected, the likelihood of being widowed increased with age. Among the 45-64 age group, only 17% of female Indians and 6% of male Indians were widowed. In this "pre-elderly" age group, American Indians of both sexes were more likely to fall in the categories of being single, married with spouse absent, widowed, or divorced than their counterparts in the general population.

However, the crucial point is that about two-thirds (15,000) of all older American Indian women and slightly more than one-third of the older men (37%) were either single, widowed, or divorced. This fact has important implications for problems of family responsibility and income maintenance.

[3/] Based on 20-percent sample. Most of the data in this report are based on samples of varying sizes, rather than complete counts. The sample size has been noted in each table containing sample data. Sample data are subject to both sampling variability and to errors in response and nonreporting.

Household Composition

Elderly Indians were more likely to live in two-or-more person households and in rural areas than elderly persons of all races (see Table 2). Sixty-five percent of all elderly Indians lived in a two-or-more person household compared to 60% of total elderly persons of all races (see Table A). The figures for urban-rural residence were more dramatic, 59% of elderly Indians lived in rural areas compared to 27% of persons of all races. Many of these rural households may be widely scattered and located in the most isolated and remote areas of the country, where public transportation is not a viable means of reaching communities or service areas.

Table A

COMPOSITION OF HOUSEHOLDS HEADED BY AMERICAN INDIANS AND PERSONS OF ALL RACES 65+ YEARS OLD, 1970 1/

Size and type of household	American Indians		All races	
	Total	By size of household	Total	By size of household
Occupied households (in thousands)..	27	27	12,367	12,367
Percent.....	100.0	(X)	100.0	(X)
Two-or-more persons.....	64.9	100.0	59.9	100.0
Male head.....	49.2	75.9	49.9	83.4
Wife present, no nonrelatives.	42.0	64.7	45.8	76.5
Other male head.....	7.3	11.2	4.1	6.9
Female head.....	15.6	24.1	10.0	16.6
One person.....	35.1	100.0	40.1	100.0
Male.....	12.7	36.1	9.9	24.7
Female.....	22.5	63.9	30.2	75.3

1/ Data based on 15-percent sample.
(X) Not applicable.
SOURCE: Same as Table 2.

In 1970, the Bureau of the Census enumerated 180,000 housing units where the head of the household was an American Indian. These units made up about 0.3% of the more than 63 million occupied housing units in the United States. One-person housing units occupied by older Indians made up about 5% of all Indian housing units. One-persons units occupied by the elderly in the total population represented 8% of all housing units in the Nation.

Among the 17,544 two-or-more person households headed by Indians age 65 or older, 76% of these housing units were headed by males, slightly lower than the proportion of this household size headed by total elderly males (83%). In contrast, among older Indians living in housing units occupied by one person, women predominated. About 64% of these single-person units were occupied by elderly Indian women as opposed to 36% occupied by elderly Indian men. For all races, the proportion of elderly one-person households occupied by women was higher than for elderly women in the Indian population. Taken together, the proportion of elderly Indian households headed by females (38%) was about the same as for all races (40%).

Labor Force

Both the pre-elderly and elderly Indians were economically worse off than their counterparts of all races, in terms of employment opportunities. They had, in addition to a lower civilian labor force participation rate than all races, a higher unemployment rate as well (see Table 3). According to the 1970 census, 5,500 Indians 65 years of age or over and 54,800 of those age 45-64 years old were either working or actively looking for work. This means that 13% of older Indians and slightly more than half of the 45-64 age group were participating in the labor force during the last census compared to 16% of the total older U.S. population and 67% of all races 45-64 years old. About 3,600 or 65% of older Indians in the 1970 labor force were men and 2,000 were women. The labor force participation rate for older Indian men (17%) was almost twice the rate for women (9%).

The rate of unemployment among older Indians in the labor force was nearly double that of the total older population (9.0% vs. 4.6%). The disparity increased for those 45-64 years old; the unemployment rate for these Indians was about triple that of total persons in this age group (8.5% vs. 3.1%).

A smaller proportion of elderly Indian employees worked full-time during 1970 than their younger counterparts and considerably more worked part of the year. Of Indians 65+ who were employed in 1970, only a third worked 50-52 weeks as compared to over two-fifths for the total older employed population (see Table B). The proportion of older Indian workers who were employed less than 27 weeks (40%) was double that of the 45-64 age group and about one-third higher than elderly employees of all races.

Table B

WEEKS WORKED IN 1969 BY AMERICAN INDIAN WORKERS AND WORKERS OF ALL RACES 45+ YEARS OLD BY AGE[1/]

Weeks worked in 1969	American Indians		All races	
	45-64	65+	45-64	65+
Total workers (in thousands)...	63	8	29,729	4,629
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50-52 weeks.....	53.6	33.4	69.1	44.1
27-49 weeks.....	26.8	26.9	21.6	25.3
26 weeks or less.	19.6	39.7	9.3	30.6

[1/] Data based on 20-percent sample.
SOURCE: Same as Table 1.

In terms of regions, proportionately more older Indians were likely to be in the labor force in the Northeast than elsewhere (see Table C). However, excluding the Northeast, the proportion of older Indians in the labor force was similar in each of the remaining major regions. The difference in the labor force participation rates between males and females was smallest in the North Central region. In the other regions, the male labor force participation rates were about twice those for females. Older American Indians in urban areas had a labor force participation rate (16%) half again as much as those in rural areas (10%). (See Table 4).

Table C

PERCENT OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND PERSONS
OF ALL RACES 45+ YEARS OLD IN THE LABOR FORCE
BY AGE, SEX, AND REGION, 1970[1/]

Region	45-64			65+		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
AMERICAN INDIANS						
United States....	52.3	69.3	36.9	12.6	17.2	8.5
Northeast.....	64.7	80.2	52.1	18.5	26.3	12.7
North Central.	55.8	71.2	41.6	12.7	15.2	10.5
South.....	53.8	72.2	37.5	12.4	17.9	7.8
West.....	47.6	64.8	31.5	11.5	16.0	7.1
ALL RACES						
United States....	66.6	87.2	47.8	16.2	24.8	10.0
Northeast.....	68.9	89.4	50.6	17.2	26.6	10.8
North Central.	67.8	89.1	47.9	16.8	25.6	10.5
South.....	63.5	83.5	45.5	15.5	23.7	9.5
West.....	66.7	87.1	47.3	14.9	22.5	9.1

[1/] Data based on 20-percent sample
SOURCE: Same as Table 1.

The majority of employed Indians of all age groups worked in the private sector as wage and salary employees. However, for the 65+ group among Indians and the general older population, the proportion who were self-employed was double that of the 45-64 age group (see Table D). This is, in part, the product of two factors--some wage and salary workers go into business for themselves when they have accumulated sufficient capital, a process which may take years; and secondly, self-employed persons such as farmers, small businessmen, and members of the professions remain longer in gainful employment than wage and salary workers because they can control their own retirement. The proportion of older Indians who were self-employed (16%) was about twice that of the 45-64 age group but was below that for elderly persons of all races (21%).

Table D

DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYED AMERICAN INDIANS AND PERSONS OF ALL RACES 45+ YEARS OLD BY AGE AND CLASS OF WORKER, 1970[1/]

Class of worker	American Indians		All races	
	45-64	65+	45-64	65+
Total employed (in thousands).....	50	5	26,913	3,113
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Private wage and salary worker..	64.2	61.6	71.4	65.8
Government worker.....	26.9	21.0	17.3	12.4
Local government worker.....	9.0	9.9	8.3	7.3
Self-employed worker.....	8.5	15.9	10.7	21.0
Unpaid family worker.....	0.4	1.5	0.6	0.9

1/Data for American Indians based on 20-percent sample; data for all races based on 15-percent sample.

SOURCE: Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Final Subject Reports, PC(2)-1F, "American Indians," and PC(2)-1A, "National Origin and Language."

The 1970 census enumeration of major occupation groups shows that more employed older Indians are in service occupations than any other major occupation group (see Table 5). More than a fourth (including 8% in private household) of employed older Indians were service workers--18% of males and 42% of females, 20% of the females being in private household service occupations. Wages for service workers are about the lowest among all the major occupation groups, a situation accounting for the low income of Indian employees, especially the older workers. Although older employees of all races were also more likely to be service workers in 1970, the proportion (21%) was less than for older Indian workers (15% of males and 32% of females).

Income and Poverty[4/]

The income level of older American Indians was considerably below that of older persons of all races. The 1970 census revealed that half of older

4/Information on income in this report includes money income received in the calendar year 1969. Total money income is the sum of amounts received as wage or salary income, self-employment income (gross receipts minus operating expenses), and income other than earnings. These incomes represent the amount received before deductions for personal income taxes, social security, bond purchases, union dues, etc.

Indians received incomes below $1,408 (see Table E). This amount was $449 or 24% below the median income of all older persons. For Indians

Table E

MEDIAN INCOME IN 1969 OF PERSONS OF ALL RACES AND AMERICAN INDIANS 45+ YFARS OLD BY AGE[1/]

Age	All races	American Indians	
		Amount	Percent of all races
45+, total..	$3,959	$2,117	53.5
45-64....	5,875	3,072	52.3
65+.....	1,857	1,408	75.8

[1/] Data based on 20-percent sample.
SOURCE: Same as Table 1.

45-64 years old, their median income was substantially smaller (48% less) than the corresponding age group in the total population. When comparing the inadequate income of older male and female Indians, males fared better. The median income for older Indian men ($1,654) was $492 or 42% higher than for older women (see Table 8).

In terms of the distribution of income, older American Indians are more concentrated at the lower end of the income scale than the general population. About 39,000 or 89% of Indians 65 years of age and over received incomes in 1969 (see Table 6). Among this group, about three-fourths (71%) received less than $2,000 and 84% received less than $3,000 (see Table 7). For the older population of all races, the comparable ratios were 54% and 69%, respectively.

At the upper end of the income scale, only 7% of older Indians received incomes of $5,000 or more compared with 16% of all older persons, and only 4% of older Indians but 10% of all older persons received $7,000 or more.

Older Indian men residing in urban areas fared a little better than those living in rural areas. Among older Indian males with incomes, about two-thirds in urban areas received under $3,000, while four-fifths of those in rural areas were below this figure. For older women, about four-fifths of those in urban areas and nearly all in rural areas (94%) received incomes below $3,000.

With these low incomes and the concentration of the older Indian population at the lower end of the income scale, it becomes quite obvious that poverty is a major problem for Indians. Among the Indian population of all ages, about 40% or 283,000 were living below the low income or poverty level in 1969. Half of the elderly Indian population (51%) reported incomes below the poverty level in 1969. The proportion of older Indians that was poor was about the same as for Black elderly but about twice as high as for all older persons (see Table F). More than 7% of all poor Indians were 65 years old or over, slightly in excess of this older group's share (5.7%) of the total Indian population.

Table F

PERCENT BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL IN 1969, FOR AMERICAN INDIANS, BLACKS, AND PERSONS OF ALL RACES 65+ YEARS OLD, BY REGION[1/]

Region	American Indians	Blacks	All races
U.S., total.....	50.8	49.5	27.3
Northeast.....	32.3	33.5	21.4
North Central.	52.2	40.0	26.2
South.....	54.7	58.2	36.4
West.....	51.1	31.9	21.3

[1/] Data based on 5-percent sample.

SOURCE: Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Final Subject Report PC(2)-9A, "Low-Income Population."

A combination of historic, economic, social, and cultural factors has contributed to so many older Indians living below the low income level. These factors, coupled with limited job opportunities and unskilled occupations, offer little chance for older Indians to improve their present circumstances.

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides payments to eligible low-income aged (65 and over), blind, and disabled persons. The amount of these payments depends on the amount of other income reported by the recipients, ranging up to a maximum payment (as of July 1, 1977) of $177.80 for an elderly individual living alone who has no countable income and $266.70 for an elderly couple in similar circumstances.

The Social Security Administration (SSA), which administers the SSI program, collects information on race when persons apply for a social security number. However, the race categories are restricted to white, Negro, and "other." Thus, it is not possible to tabulate SSI administrative data separately for American Indian recipients. SSA has prepared estimates of the number and characteristics of American Indian[5/] SSI recipients in December 1975 for the 243 counties in which Indians represented 90% or more of the "other" racial category in 1970.[6/] In these 243 couties as a group, American Indians comprised 98% of the "other" races population in 1970. Unfortunately, estimates could not be made for many large couties which contain sizable Indian populations because these counties also contain large numbers of Asian-Americans and other racial groups in the "other races" category. About 48% of all Indians in the U.S. resided in the 243 selected counties for which estimates were made. These facts should be kept in mind when interpreting these statistics and comparing them with national data.

There were an estimated 9,300[7/] elderly Indians receiving Federally administered SSI benefits by reason of age and low income in the selected counties in December 1975. Because this estimate includes only those who lived in the 243 selected counties containing less than half of all Indians in the U.S., the actual recipiency rate is much higher--perhaps as high as 40% of all elderly Indians. By contrast, the 2.3 million elderly SSI recipients of all races in December 1975 represented only 10% of the Nation's elderly.

The elderly Indian SSI recipients were more likely to be males than aged SSI recipients of all races, and were also relatively younger and more likely to be maintaining their own household (see Table G). Half (49%) of the Indian recipients were males, as compared to only 30% among all races. About 59% of the Indians were 65-74 years of age; among recipients of all races, this proportion was only 48%. Although a large majority (88%) of all aged SSI recipients lived in their own household, a higher proportion of aged Indian recipients did so (95%) and fewer lived in another person's household or in an institution covered by Medicaid.

The average Federal SSI payment received by the 9,300 elderly Indians was higher than the average payment for all aged SSI recipients ($95 vs. $76). (See Table H.) Part of this difference was due to the difference in living arrangements between the two groups. For example, the SSI benefits of persons living in another person's household are reduced by one-third. As noted above, a higher proportion of aged Indian SSI recipients lived in their own household than recipients of all races. The balance of the difference in average payment levels was due primarily to the lower countable incomes received by the elderly Indians.

[5/] The estimates of Indian SSI recipients in this section include Aleuts and Eskimos living in Alaska.

[6/] The estimated number of Indian recipients in each of these counties was calculated by multiplying the number of SSI recipients of "other" races in December 1975 by the proportion of the "other" races population which was classified as American Indian in the 1970 census.

[7/] Does not include about 1,000 aged Indians who receive SSI payments because of blindness or disability.

Table G

SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF RECIPIENTS OF FEDERALLY ADMINISTERED SSI PAYMENTS TO THE AGED, FOR AMERICAN INDIAN RECIPIENTS IN 243 SELECTED COUNTIES AND RECIPIENTS OF ALL RACES IN THE U.S., DECEMBER 1975

Subject	American Indians 1/	All races
Number of recipients	9,328	2,307,105
Percent.....	100.0	100.0
AGE		
65 to 74 years.....	59.4	47.9
65 to 69.....	27.4	20.9
70 to 74.....	32.0	27.0
75 years and over.....	40.1	51.9
75 to 79.....	20.5	21.9
80 and over.....	19.6	30.0
SEX		
Male.....	49.2	29.6
Female.....	50.7	70.3
LIVING ARRANGEMENTS 2/		
Own household.....	94.7	88.3
Another's household.....	3.8	7.6
Institutional care covered by Medicaid...	1.5	4.0

1/ Includes Aleuts and Eskimos in Alaska. Data do not include about 1,000 aged Indians who received SSI because of blindness or disability.

2/ As defined for determination of Federal SSI payment standards.

NOTE: Percents may not add to total because of rounding.

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Program and Demographic Characteristics of Supplemental Security Beneficiaries: December 1975, and Research and Statistics Note, No. 6, "American Indian SSI Beneficiaries: Estimates for Selected Areas," May 1977.

Table H

NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS OF FEDERALLY ADMINISTERED SSI PAYMENTS TO THE AGED AND AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS, BY TYPE OF PAYMENT, FOR AMERICAN INDIAN RECIPIENTS IN 243 SELECTED COUNTIES AND RECIPIENTS OF ALL RACES IN THE U.S., DECEMBER 1975

Type of payment	Number of Recipients		Average monthly Federal payment	
	American Indians[1]	All races	American Indians[1]	All races
Federally administered SSI payments, total.....	9,278	2,307,105	$97.45	$90.93
Federal SSI payments....	9,180	2,024,765	95.16	75.94
With State supplementation.....	432	843,917	136.77	66.38
State supplementation only.....	98	282,240	38.09	(NA)

[1] Data exclude 103 cases for which payment information was not available and about 1,000 aged Indians who received SSI payments because of blindness or disability. Data include Aleuts and Eskimos in Alaska.

(NA) Not available

NOTE: Data exclude persons receiving State administered State supplementation.

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Research and Statistics Note, No. 6, "American Indian SSI Beneficiaries: Estimates for Selected Areas," May 1977, and Supplemental Security Income for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled, Quarterly Statistics, June 1976.

Education

The educational attainment of older Indians in 1970 was well below the National norm for older persons (see Table 9). The proportion of Indians 65 years old or older who had obtained a high school diploma was half that of the total older population (13% vs. 27%). Three-fifths of older Indians had completed less than 8 years of schooling and only 2% had completed four or more years of college.

The distribution of Indian men and women by educational level differed. Among older Indians, women were more likely to be high school graduates than men (15% vs. 11%).

As one might expect, older Indians had completed fewer years of formal education than younger adult Indians. For example, in 1970 a third of those 65 years old and over had completed less than five years of formal schooling compared with one-fifth of the 45-64 age group. Only 13% of the 65+ group had completed high school as compared with 28% of those 45-64 years of age. The median number of school years completed for older Indians (7.0) was two years less than for the 45-64 age group.

These characteristics reflect the limited education opportunities of the past for older Indians. Educational attainment of future elderly Indians will be greater as pre-elderly Indians reach age 65.

Health

Associated with aging is the prevalence of a number of ailments which are not as common among the younger age groups. These particular ailments constitute the major afflictions among the elderly in all ethnic and racial groups. The leading causes of hospitalization among elderly American Indians include diseases of the circulatory, respiratory, digestive, and nervous systems, neoplasms (cancer), and accidents. Special health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives are provided by the Indian Health Service (IHS) through 51 hospitals, 99 health and school health centers, and more than 300 field stations under Public Law 83-568 which became effective in 1955. These institutions provide a wide variety of preventive, curative, and rehabilitative services. Such services are provided for Indians living "on or near" reservations and not to urban Indians. These latter Indians must seek the medical services provided to all urban groups as a whole.

IHS figures indicate that a shorter period is now needed for examination and treatment of Indians and Alaska Natives confined to IHS hospitals. In 1967, the average length of time older Indians and Native Alaskans spent in hospitals administered by IHS was 16.2 days (see Table 10). By 1972, the average stay in these hospitals had decreased to 12.1 days. In "contract" hospitals (non-IHS hospitals which provide hospital care to the IHS population by contractual arrangements or informal agreements), the average length of stay was relatively constant (about 10 days) during this same period.

The Director of the Indian Health Service recently stated, "Substantial gains have been made, but much remains to be done before we reach our goal of elevating the health status of Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest possible level. Their problems are more diverse, more severe, and are further compounded by a number of cultural, socioeconomic and geographic-environmental factors."[8/]

[8/] Indian Health Service, Indian Health Trends and Services: 1974 Edition. See the "Foreword" by Emery A. Johnson, Director.

Transportation for Indians living in IHS service areas who need health services and for health service personnel providing these services is a major problem, according to the IHS. "Many patients must travel long distances over primitive roads and difficult terrain to reach hospitals and health centers. Those who are very ill or who need emergency treatment must be transported by ambulance or airplane, sometimes for hundreds of miles."9/

Life Expectancy

The youthfulness of the Indian population is apparent. The disparity in age distribution is due in large part to the shorter life span, especially among infants, and to the higher fertility rates among Indians than the general population. The Bureau of the Census reported that the median age of all Indians living in the United States in 1970 was 8 years less than the median for the U.S. total (20.5 vs. 28.1). The median age of the 460,000 Indians and Native Alaskans in the IHS service population was 18.4 years in 1970. The IHS data revealed that average life expectancy at birth for Indians and Native Alaskans increased 5.1 years between 1950 and 1970, from 60.0 years to 65.1 years. Although this growth in life expectancy was about twice as large as the comparable growth for persons of all races during this period, the average life expectancy for Indians in 1970 was equal to that for non-white races in general but was about 7 years less than for white persons (see Table I). The average life expectancy for Indians at age 45 was 29.1 years and at age 65 it was 15.4 years.

Concerning the higher death rates and lower life expectancy of the Indian population, the Indian Advisory Council to the Senate Special Committee on Aging has stated,"...there are many factors which cause the average age at death to be lower. These factors include infant mortality, lack of decent housing, inadequate nutrition, poor transportation systems, insufficient medical services, and poor communication systems."10/

9/ Charles A. Hill, Jr., and Mozart I. Spector, "Natality and Mortality of American Indians Compared with U.S. Whites and Nonwhites," Health Reports, Vol. 86, No. 3, March 1971 (this journal is published by the U.S. Public Health Service and is now called Public Health Reports).

10/ Special Committee on Aging, United States Senate, Advisory Council on the Elderly American Indian, Working Paper, November 1971, p.3.

Table I

AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY AT SELECTED AGES,
FOR SELECTED RACIAL GROUPS, 1970

Age	Average number of years of life remaining			
	American Indians and Alaska Natives (IHS population)	U.S. total		
		All races	Whites	Other races
At birth....	65.1	70.9	71.7	65.3
45 years....	29.1	30.2	30.6	27.5
50 years....	25.5	26.1	26.3	23.9
55 years....	22.0	22.1	22.3	20.6
60 years....	18.7	18.5	18.6	17.6
65 years....	15.4	15.2	15.2	14.9
70 years....	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.5
75 years....	9.3	9.6	9.5	10.7

SOURCES: National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics of the United States: 1970, Vol. II, Section 5, "Life Tables;" and Indian Health Services, unpublished data.

Mortality

In the IHS population, the proportion of all deaths which occurred among the older age groups increased between 1956 and 1971. In 1956, 44% of all deaths among the IHS population were of persons age 45+ and 26% were of persons age 65+. By 1971, the proportion had increased to 57% for the 45+ age group and 33% for persons age 65 or older. This increase in the proportion of older Indians and Native Alaskans among all Indians who died during this time span reflects the improvement of health and a decline of deaths among the younger age groups. Like the general older population, the leading causes of deaths among the older Indian population in 1974 included heart disease, followed by malignant neoplasms (cancer). (See Table 11.)

Figures reported for 1971 revealed that death rates per 1,000 population of Indians and Alaska Natives were higher than for persons of all races through the age group 55-59 (see Table 12). Futhermore, for the age groupings 65-69 and above, the death rates for persons of all races were generally higher than those for Indians. The death rate for the 85+ age group exceeded that of Indians by a wide margin (174.3 vs. 122.2). However, it should be remembered that estimates of the death rates for Indians and Native Alaskans are based on a small population and a small number of deaths, factors which could influence the reliability of these rates.

Summary

A number of conclusions can be drawn about the situation of older American Indians. Many of the circumstances of this group are similar to those of the total older population, although they differ somewhat in degree. It is apparent from the data in this report that the economic, social and health situations of persons in the older Indian population were worse than for elderly persons of all races. The proportion of elderly Indians below the poverty level in 1969 was nearly double that of the total older population (51% vs. 27%). This situation reflects the low wages and limited employment opportunities of older Indians during younger working years when compared to elderly persons of all races. Furthermore, the higher average monthly SSI payments for older Indians than for persons in the total older age group because of less countable income for older Indians points out the need for transfer payments and services to make better the present circumstances of older American Indians. Although life expectancy among Indians has increased, it is still below that of the general population. Adding to the problems of the elderly Indians is that services are geographically split between agencies. Indians on reservations qualify for services offered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs but those living off the reservations do not. In summary, cultural differences, low income, lack of a focal point for services have all contributed to the plight of the elderly Indians.

LIST OF TABLES

Text Tables		Page
A	Composition of Households Headed by American Indians and Persons of All Races 65+ Years Old, 1970	3
B	Weeks Worked in 1969 by American Indian Workers and Workers of All Races 45+ Years Old, by Age	5
C	Percent of American Indians and Persons of All Races 45+ Years Old in the Labor Force by Age, Sex, and Region, 1970	6
D	Distribution of Employed American Indians and Persons of All Races 45+ Years Old by Age and Class of Worker, 1970	7
E	Median Income in 1969 of Persons of All Races and American Indians 45+ Years Old by Age	8
F	Percent Below the Poverty Level in 1969, for American Indians, Blacks, and Persons of All Races 65+ Years Old, by Region	9
G	Selected Characteristics of Recipients of Federally Administered SSI Payments to the Aged, for American Indian Recipients in 243 Selected Counties and Recipients of All Races in the U.S., December 1975	11
H	Number of Recipients of Federally Administered SSI Payments to the Aged and Amount of Payments, by Type of Payment, for American Indian Recipients in 243 Selected Counties and Recipients of All Races in the U.S., December 1975	12
I	Average Life Expectancy at Selected Ages, for Selected Racial Groups,	15

Detailed Tables		
1	Distribution of American Indians and Persons of All Races 45+ Years Old by Marital Status, Age, and Sex, 1970	19
2	Composition of Households Headed by American Indians and Persons of All Races 45+ Years Old by Age of Head and Urban-Rural Residence, 1970	20
3	Employment Status of American Indians and Persons of All Races 45+ Years Old by Age and Sex, 1970	21

List of Tables (Cont'd)

Detailed Tables

		Page
4	Labor Force Participation of American Indians and Persons of All Races 45+ Years Old by Age, Urban-Rural Residence, and Sex, 1970	22
5	Distribution of Employed American Indians and Persons of All Races 45+ Years Old by Major Occupation Group and Age, 1970.	23
6	Distribution of American Indians and Persons of All Races 45+ Years Old by Age and Money Income in 1969.	24
7	Cumulative Distribution of American Indians and Persons of All Races 45+ Years Old by Age and Money Income in 1969	25
8	Income in 1969 of American Indians and Persons of All Races 45+ Years Old, by Age, Urban-Rural Residence, and Sex.	26
9	Educational Attainment of American Indians 25+ Years Old by Age and Sex, 1970	27
10	Average Length of Stay in General Hospitals for American Indians 45+ Years Old, by Age and Sex, Fiscal Years 1967-72.	28
11	Four Leading Causes of Death Among American Indians Compared to Persons of All Races 45+ Years Old by Age, 1974	29
12	Death Rates Per 1,000 Population for American Indians and Persons of All Races by Age, 1971	30

Table 1

DISTRIBUTION OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND PERSONS OF ALL RACES 45+ YEARS OLD BY MARITAL STATUS, AGE, AND SEX, 1970 1/

Marital status	American Indians				All races			
	45-64		65+		45-64		65+	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	49,822	54,929	20,702	23,100	19,997,074	21,823,556	8,433,330	11,658,495
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Single	9.6	5.5	8.7	6.3	6.4	6.1	7.5	8.1
Married	78.5	70.4	63.2	37.0	87.0	75.2	72.4	36.5
Spouse present	72.0	63.4	57.3	32.8	83.4	71.3	68.3	33.9
Spouse absent	6.5	7.1	5.9	4.2	3.6	3.9	4.1	2.6
Widowed	5.8	16.8	23.3	52.4	2.8	13.4	17.1	52.2
Divorced	6.1	7.3	4.9	4.3	3.8	5.3	3.0	3.2

1/ Data for American Indians based on 20-percent sample; data for all races based on 5-percent sample.

Note: Percents may not add to total because of rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Final Subject Report PC(2)-1F, American Indians;" and Final Report PC(1)-D1, "Detailed Characteristics," U.S. Summary.

Table 2

COMPOSITION OF HOUSEHOLDS HEADED BY AMERICAN INDIANS AND PERSONS OF ALL RACES 45+ YEARS OLD BY AGE OF HEAD AND URBAN-RURAL RESIDENCE, 1970 1/

Race, urban-rural residence, and age	All households	Two-or-more-person households				One-person households			
		Total	Male head	Female head		Both sexes	Male	Female	
				Number	Percent of total			Number	Percent of both sexes
NUMBER									
American Indians									
All areas:									
45-64.....	56,539	46,565	37,423	9,142	19.6	9,974	4,506	5,468	54.8
65+.....	27,046	17,544	13,320	4,224	24.1	9,502	3,426	6,076	63.9
Urban:									
45-64.....	26,837	20,884	16,577	4,307	20.6	5,953	2,316	3,637	61.1
65+.....	11,149	6,210	4,568	1,642	26.4	4,939	1,399	3,540	71.7
Rural:									
45-64.....	29,702	25,681	20,846	4,835	18.8	4,021	2,190	1,831	45.5
65+.....	15,897	11,334	8,752	2,582	22.8	4,563	2,027	2,536	55.6
All races									
All areas:									
45-64.....	23,072,875	19,382,784	17,221,335	2,161,449	11.2	3,690,091	1,254,467	2,435,624	66.0
65+.....	12,367,434	7,407,788	6,177,017	1,230,771	16.6	4,959,646	1,222,595	3,737,051	75.3
Urban:									
45-64.....	17,365,578	14,345,148	12,590,393	1,754,755	12.2	3,020,430	985,937	2,034,493	67.4
65+.....	9,061,710	5,238,716	4,292,774	945,942	18.1	3,822,994	882,659	2,940,335	76.9
Rural:									
45-64.....	5,707,297	5,037,636	4,630,942	406,694	8.1	669,661	268,530	401,131	59.9
65+.....	3,305,724	2,169,072	1,884,243	284,829	13.1	1,136,652	339,936	796,716	70.1
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
American Indians									
All areas:									
45-64.....	100.0	82.4	66.2	16.2	(X)	17.6	8.0	9.7	(X)
65+.....	100.0	64.9	49.2	15.6	(X)	35.1	12.7	22.5	(X)
Urban:									
45-64.....	100.0	77.8	61.8	16.0	(X)	22.2	8.6	13.6	(X)
65+.....	100.0	55.7	41.0	14.7	(X)	44.3	12.5	31.8	(X)
Rural:									
45-64.....	100.0	86.5	70.2	16.3	(X)	13.5	7.4	6.2	(X)
65+.....	100.0	71.3	55.1	16.2	(X)	28.7	12.8	16.0	(X)
All races									
All areas:									
45-64.....	100.0	84.0	74.6	9.4	(X)	16.0	5.4	10.6	(X)
65+.....	100.0	59.9	49.9	10.0	(X)	40.1	9.9	30.2	(X)
Urban:									
45-64.....	100.0	82.6	72.5	10.1	(X)	17.4	5.7	11.7	(X)
65+.....	100.0	57.8	47.4	10.4	(X)	42.2	9.7	32.4	(X)
Rural:									
45-64.....	100.0	88.3	81.1	7.1	(X)	11.7	4.7	7.0	(X)
65+.....	100.0	65.6	57.0	8.6	(X)	34.4	10.3	24.1	(X)

1/ Data based on 15-percent sample.
(X) Not applicable.
Note: Percents may not add to total because of rounding.
Source: Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Final Subject Reports HC(7)-7, "Geographic Aspects of the Housing Inventory," and HC(7)-9, "Housing of Selected Racial Groups."

Table 3

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND PERSONS OF ALL RACES
45+ YEARS OLD BY AGE AND SEX, 1970 1/

Employment status and sex	45-64		65+	
	American Indians	All races	American Indians	All races
BOTH SEXES				
Total	104,751	41,818,717	43,802	20,101,874
In labor force	54,807	27,865,873	5,519	3,263,774
Civilian labor force	54,585	27,788,857	5,507	3,260,967
Percent of total	52.1	66.5	12.6	16.2
Employed	49,939	26,938,776	5,011	3,110,480
Unemployed	4,646	850,081	496	150,487
Percent of civilian labor force	8.5	3.1	9.0	4.6
Not in labor force	49,944	13,952,844	38,283	16,838,100
MALE				
Total	49,822	19,995,639	20,702	8,437,630
In labor force	34,538	17,434,084	3,564	2,092,496
Civilian labor force	34,339	17,361,753	3,552	2,090,412
Percent of total	68.9	86.8	17.2	24.8
Employed	31,056	16,881,049	3,196	1,998,903
Unemployed	3,283	480,704	356	91,509
Percent of civilian labor force	9.6	2.8	10.0	4.4
Not in labor force	15,284	2,561,555	17,138	6,345,134
FEMALE				
Total	54,929	21,823,078	23,100	11,664,244
In labor force	20,269	10,431,789	1,955	1,171,278
Civilian labor force	20,246	10,427,104	1,955	1,170,555
Percent of total	36.9	47.8	8.5	10.0
Employed	18,883	10,057,727	1,815	1,111,577
Unemployed	1,363	369,377	140	58,978
Percent of civilian labor force	6.7	3.5	7.2	5.0
Not in labor force	34,660	11,391,289	21,145	10,492,966

1/ Data based on 20-percent sample.
Source: Same as Table 1.

Table 4

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND PERSONS OF ALL RACES 45+ YEARS OLD BY AGE, URBAN-RURAL RESIDENCE, AND SEX, 1970 1/

Race, sex, and age	All areas			Urban			Rural								
										Nonfarm			Farm		
	Total	In labor force		Total	In labor force		Total	In labor force		Total	In labor force		Total	In labor force	
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
AMERICAN INDIANS															
Total:															
45-64.....	104,751	54,807	52.3	48,354	29,577	61.2	56,397	25,230	44.7	48,282	21,492	44.5	8,115	3,738	46.1
65+.....	43,802	5,519	12.6	18,694	2,920	15.6	25,108	2,599	10.4	21,999	2,095	9.5	3,109	504	16.2
Male:															
45-64.....	49,822	34,538	69.3	22,444	17,560	78.2	27,378	16,978	62.0	23,435	14,286	61.0	3,943	2,692	68.3
65+.....	20,702	3,564	17.2	7,766	1,645	21.2	12,936	1,919	14.8	11,268	1,493	13.2	1,668	426	25.5
Female:															
45-64.....	54,929	20,269	36.9	25,910	12,017	46.4	29,019	8,252	28.4	24,847	7,206	29.0	4,172	1,046	25.1
65+.....	23,100	1,955	8.5	10,928	1,275	11.7	12,172	680	5.6	10,731	602	5.6	1,441	78	5.4
ALL RACES															
Total:															
45-64.....	41,818,717	27,865,873	66.6	30,775,839	21,016,955	68.3	11,042,878	6,848,918	62.0	8,828,164	5,490,895	62.2	2,214,714	1,358,023	61.3
65+.....	20,101,874	3,263,774	16.2	14,668,968	2,417,638	16.5	5,432,906	846,136	15.6	4,533,714	611,733	13.5	899,192	234,403	26.1
Male:															
45-64.....	19,995,639	17,434,084	87.2	14,502,878	12,832,155	88.5	5,492,761	4,601,929	83.8	4,348,118	3,588,669	82.5	1,144,643	1,013,260	88.5
65+.....	8,437,630	2,092,496	24.8	5,883,635	1,475,969	25.1	2,553,995	616,527	24.1	2,076,679	412,966	19.9	477,316	203,561	42.6
Female:															
45-64.....	21,823,078	10,431,789	47.8	16,272,961	8,184,800	50.3	5,550,117	2,246,989	40.5	4,480,046	1,902,226	42.5	1,070,071	344,763	32.2
65+.....	11,664,244	1,171,278	10.0	8,785,333	941,669	10.7	2,878,911	229,609	8.0	2,457,035	198,767	8.1	421,876	30,842	7.3

1/ Data based on 20-percent sample.
Source: Same as Table 1.

Table 5

DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYED AMERICAN INDIANS AND PERSONS OF ALL RACES 45+ YEARS OLD BY MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP AND AGE, 1970 1/

Major occupation group	American Indians				All races			
	45-64		65+		45-64		65+	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total employed (in thousands)	31	19	3	2	16,881	10,058	1,999	1,112
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Professional, technical and kindred workers	8.0	11.5	7.2	10.9	11.7	14.5	11.1	14.6
Managers and administrators, except farm	6.7	3.7	10.6	5.6	13.9	5.2	12.9	6.3
Sales workers	2.2	4.7	3.4	5.8	6.9	8.6	10.1	10.7
Clerical and kindred workers	4.9	17.2	3.8	14.9	7.1	29.6	7.2	21.5
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	23.4	2.1	11.3	1.6	23.1	2.1	14.7	2.2
Operatives, including transport	20.0	16.8	10.8	13.1	18.4	16.0	11.0	10.8
Laborers, except farm	12.8	1.2	12.5	1.6	5.4	0.9	5.8	1.0
Farmers and farm managers	4.3	0.9	9.6	1.7	4.0	0.4	9.5	0.8
Farm laborers and foremen	5.8	1.8	12.5	2.6	1.4	0.5	3.0	0.6
Service workers, except private household	11.8	30.5	17.8	22.1	8.0	17.0	14.5	18.1
Private household workers	0.1	9.6	0.5	20.0	0.1	5.1	0.3	13.5

1/ Data based on 20-percent sample.
Note: Percents may not add to total because of rounding.
Source: Same as Table 1.

Table 6

DISTRIBUTION OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND PERSONS OF ALL RACES 45+ YEARS OLD BY AGE AND MONEY INCOME IN 1969 1/

Income in 1969	American Indians			All races		
	45+	45-64	65+	45+	45-64	65+
Number with income (in thousands).....	121	82	39	52,096	33,786	18,310
Median income.....	$2,117	$3,072	$1,408	$3,959	$5,875	$1,857
Percent.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under $1,000.....	25.9	21.3	35.5	15.2	10.1	24.5
$1,000 to $1,999.....	22.7	16.6	35.4	16.4	9.2	29.7
$2,000 to $2,999.....	12.0	11.3	13.4	10.2	7.6	15.2
$3,000 to $3,999.....	8.7	10.3	5.3	8.6	8.4	8.9
$4,000 to $4,999.....	6.4	7.9	3.3	7.0	7.8	5.3
$5,000 to $5,999.....	5.2	6.9	1.8	6.5	8.0	3.7
$6,000 to $6,999.....	4.6	6.3	1.1	5.8	7.5	2.7
$7,000 to $7,999.....	3.8	5.1	1.1	5.5	7.3	2.0
$8,000 to $9,999.....	4.6	6.2	1.3	8.5	11.7	2.6
$10,000 to $14,999...	4.5	6.2	1.0	10.0	13.9	2.8
$15,000+.....	1.5	1.9	0.7	6.4	8.6	2.4

1/ Data based on 20-percent sample.
Source: Same as Table 1.

Table 7

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND PERSONS OF ALL RACES 45+ YEARS OLD BY AGE AND MONEY INCOME IN 1969 1/

Income in 1969	American Indians			All races		
	45+	45-64	65+	45+	45-64	65+
Percent with income:						
Under $1,000.....	25.9	21.3	35.5	15.2	10.1	24.5
Under $2,000.....	48.6	37.9	71.0	31.5	19.2	54.2
Under $3,000.....	60.6	49.3	84.4	41.8	26.8	69.4
Under $4,000.....	69.3	59.6	89.8	50.4	35.2	78.3
Under $5,000.....	75.7	67.5	93.0	57.3	43.0	83.7
Under $6,000.....	81.0	74.3	94.8	63.8	51.0	87.4
Under $7,000.....	85.6	80.7	95.9	69.6	58.5	90.1
Under $8,000.....	89.4	85.8	97.0	75.1	65.8	92.1
Under $10,000.....	94.0	91.9	98.3	83.6	77.5	94.8
Under $15,000.....	98.5	98.1	99.3	93.6	91.4	97.6

1/ Data based on 20-percent sample.
Source: Same as Table 1.

Table 8

INCOME IN 1969 OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND PERSONS OF ALL RACES 45+ YEARS OLD, BY AGE, URBAN-RURAL RESIDENCE AND SEX 1/

Race, urban-rural residence, sex and age	Number of persons	Percent without income in 1969	With income in 1969		Median income
			Percent below $3,000	Percent below $5,000	
AMERICAN INDIANS					
All areas					
Male:					
45-64	49,822	6.9	37.0	55.3	$4,370
65+	20,702	5.9	79.1	90.8	$1,654
Female:					
45-64	54,929	35.3	65.3	83.3	$1,867
65+	23,100	15.4	89.7	95.2	$1,162
Urban					
Male:					
45-64	22,444	4.1	24.6	40.3	$6,097
65+	7,766	4.3	69.1	84.8	$2,018
Female:					
45-64	25,910	29.9	55.8	77.5	$2,539
65+	10,928	12.7	85.8	93.4	$1,403
Rural					
Male:					
45-64	27,378	9.2	47.7	68.3	$3,197
65+	12,936	6.9	85.2	94.5	$1,452
Female:					
45-64	29,019	40.2	75.2	89.4	$1,443
65+	12,172	17.9	93.5	96.9	#
ALL RACES					
All areas					
Male:					
45-64	19,995,639	2.3	12.9	23.9	$8,166
65+	8,437,630	3.1	54.7	74.6	$2,748
Female:					
45-64	21,823,078	34.7	45.8	69.2	$3,331
65+	11,664,244	13.1	81.3	91.0	$1,440
Urban					
Male:					
45-64	14,502,878	2.0	10.2	19.3	$8,780
65+	5,883,635	3.3	49.9	70.9	$3,010
Female:					
45-64	16,272,961	32.2	42.8	66.5	$3,571
65+	8,785,333	12.3	79.1	89.8	$1,549
Rural					
Male:					
45-64	5,492,761	2.9	20.3	36.2	$6,502
65+	2,553,995	2.9	65.6	83.0	$2,182
Female:					
45-64	5,550,117	42.1	56.1	78.7	$2,518
65+	2,878,911	14.2	88.5	95.0	$1,061

1/ Data based on 20-percent sample.
Less than $1,000.
Source: Same as Table 1.

Table 9

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF AMERICAN INDIANS 25+ YEARS OLD BY AGE AND SEX, 1970[1/]

Age and sex	Total	Years of school completed							Median years of school completed	Percent high school graduates
		Elementary school			High school		College			
		Less than 5	5-7	8	1-3	4	1-3	4+		
NUMBER										
Both sexes, 25+..	322,652	49,908	48,110	42,226	75,084	71,051	24,078	12,195	9.8	33.3
25-44.....	174,099	16,672	18,925	18,815	47,367	48,605	15,799	7,916	11.1	41.5
45-64.....	104,751	18,538	18,593	15,912	22,411	19,055	6,912	3,330	9.0	28.0
65+.....	43,802	14,698	10,592	7,499	5,306	3,391	1,367	949	7.0	13.0
Male, 25+.....	155,339	25,257	23,628	20,792	33,493	32,941	12,281	6,947	9.7	33.6
25-44.....	84,815	8,201	9,419	9,589	21,384	22,998	8,463	4,761	11.1	42.7
45-64.....	49,822	9,415	9,065	7,758	9,912	8,631	3,259	1,782	8.8	27.4
65+.....	20,702	7,641	5,144	3,445	2,197	1,312	559	404	6.6	11.0
Female, 25+...	167,313	24,651	24,482	21,434	41,591	38,110	11,797	5,248	9.9	33.0
25-44.....	89,284	8,471	9,506	9,226	25,983	25,607	7,336	3,155	11.0	40.4
45-64.....	54,929	9,123	9,528	8,154	12,499	10,424	3,653	1,548	9.2	28.4
65+.....	23,100	7,057	5,448	4,054	3,109	2,079	808	545	7.5	14.9
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION										
Both sexes, 25+..	100.0	15.5	14.9	13.1	23.3	22.0	7.5	3.8	(X)	(X)
25-44.....	100.0	9.6	10.9	10.8	27.2	27.9	9.1	4.5	(X)	(X)
45-64.....	100.0	17.7	17.7	15.2	21.4	18.2	6.6	3.2	(X)	(X)
65+.....	100.0	33.6	24.2	17.1	12.1	7.7	3.1	2.2	(X)	(X)
Male, 25+.....	100.0	16.3	15.2	13.4	21.6	21.2	7.9	4.5	(X)	(X)
25-44.....	100.0	9.7	11.1	11.3	25.2	27.1	10.0	5.6	(X)	(X)
45-64.....	100.0	18.9	18.2	15.6	19.9	17.3	6.5	3.6	(X)	(X)
65+.....	100.0	36.9	24.8	16.6	10.6	6.3	2.7	2.0	(X)	(X)
Female, 25+...	100.0	14.7	14.6	12.8	24.9	22.8	7.1	3.1	(X)	(X)
25-44.....	100.0	9.5	10.6	10.3	29.1	28.7	8.2	3.5	(X)	(X)
45-64.....	100.0	16.6	17.3	14.8	22.8	19.0	6.7	2.8	(X)	(X)
65+.....	100.0	30.5	23.6	17.5	13.5	9.0	3.5	2.4	(X)	(X)

1/ Data based on 20-percent sample.

Note: Percents may not add to total because of rounding.

(X) Not applicable.

Source: Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Final Subject Report PC(2)-1F, "American Indians."

Table 10

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN GENERAL HOSPITALS FOR AMERICAN INDIANS 45+ YEARS OLD, BY AGE AND SEX, FISCAL YEARS 1967-72 1/

(Numbers in days)

Fiscal year	45-64						65+					
	IHS hospitals			Contract hospitals			IHS hospitals			Contract hospitals		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1967...	13.2	13.0	13.3	8.3	8.1	8.4	16.2	16.7	15.6	9.1	9.3	8.9
1968...	12.6	13.0	12.2	8.8	9.9	8.0	15.9	16.6	15.1	10.5	10.7	10.2
1969...	11.7	11.8	11.6	8.8	8.7	9.0	15.1	14.9	15.4	11.2	10.9	11.4
1970...	11.1	11.5	10.7	8.0	8.4	7.7	13.9	14.1	13.6	10.1	10.5	9.8
1971...	10.9	10.5	11.3	7.9	8.3	7.6	14.4	13.8	15.0	10.5	9.6	11.3
1972...	10.6	10.8	10.5	7.6	7.7	7.5	12.1	12.2	11.9	9.9	10.1	9.8

1/ Data based on American Indians and Alaska Natives residing in 25 Federal Reservation States and Alaska who are receiving services provided by the Indian Health Service. The term IHS hospitals refer to Public Health Service hospitals administered by the Indian Health Service for American Indians and Alaska Natives. Contract hospitals are community, state and local governmental or private hospitals which furnish care to American Indians and Alaska Natives by contractual arrangements or informal agreements with the Indian Health Service.

Source: Indian Health Service, Discharge Summary: Fiscal Years 1967-72.

Table 11

FOUR LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG AMERICAN INDIANS COMPARED TO PERSONS OF ALL RACES 45+ YEARS OLD BY AGE, 1974[1/]

(Diseases are listed in rank order of occurrence among American Indians and Alaska Natives)

Age and cause of death	Percent of all deaths	
	American Indians and Alaska Natives	All races
45 TO 59 YEARS OF AGE		
Diseases of the heart...	20.3	34.1
Accidents.....	16.9	5.3
Cirrhosis of the liver..	13.7	4.9
Malignant neoplasms.....	13.1	27.9
60+ YEARS OF AGE		
Diseases of the heart...	32.1	44.0
Malignant neoplasms.....	14.0	18.2
Influenza and pneumonia.	5.5	3.1
Accidents.....	5.2	2.1
65+ YEARS OF AGE		
Diseases of the heart...	32.2	44.7
Malignant neoplasms.....	13.5	16.9
Influenza and pneumonia.	5.8	3.3
Accidents.....	4.5	2.0

1/ Data for American Indians and Alaska Natives are based on 24 Federal Reservation States and Alaska.

Source: Indian Health Service, unpublished data; and National Center for Health Statistics, Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Volume 24, No. 11, Supplement, and unpublished data.

Table 12

DEATH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION FOR AMERICAN INDIANS AND PERSONS OF ALL RACES BY AGE, 1971[1/]

Age	American Indians and Alaska Natives	All races
Under 1..	32.6	19.0
1 - 4..	1.9	0.8
5 - 14..	0.7	0.4
15 - 24..	3.8	1.3
25 - 34..	5.8	1.6
35 - 44..	8.3	3.1
45 - 54..	11.9	7.1
55 - 59..	16.7	13.3
60 - 64..	19.7	19.6
65 - 69..	25.4	28.6
70 - 74..	43.0	43.0
75 - 79..	50.8	66.3
80 - 84..	86.3	99.0
85+.....	122.2	174.3

1/ Data for American Indians and Alaska Natives are based on 23 Federal Reservation States and Alaska.

Source: Indian Health Service, Indian Health Trends and Services, 1974 Edition; and National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics of the United States: 1971, Volume II, "Mortality," Part A.

☆U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1978-260-923/5040

STATISTICAL REPORTS ON OLDER AMERICANS is a new series of reports prepared by the National Clearinghouse on Aging. It replaces two earlier series of reports, Facts and Figures on Older Americans and Statistical Memos. Titles available in the new series are:

1. American Indian Population 55 Years of Age and Older: Geographic Distribution, 1970 (Part 1 of 2)

2. Income and Poverty Among the Elderly: 1975

3. Some Prospects for the Future Elderly Population

4. Social, Economic, and Health Characteristics of Older American Indians (Part 2 of 2)

Titles of current interest in the older series are:

Facts and Figures on Older Americans

10. Cumulative Index to Facts and Figures on Older Americans--Number 1 Through Number 9

11. Income and Poverty in 1973

Statistical Memos

31. Estimates of the Size and Characteristics of the Older Population in 1974 and Projections to the Year 2000

32. Lack of Complete Kitchen Facilities Among the Elderly: 1970

33. Elderly Widows

34. BLS Retired Couple's Budgets: Autumn 1975